



# Let's Talk Turkey

*The Official Newsletter of the Town of East Granby*

April 2021 • Volume XXVI, Issue III

★ ★ ★ **Special Budget Edition** ★ ★ ★

## FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET

**COVID-19 CONTINUES TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE BUDGET PROCESS:** Welcome to the Annual Budget Edition of "Let's Talk Turkey." I hope that everyone has remained safe during the COVID-19 outbreak. It's been a long 14 months! While the budget process continues to be impacted by COVID restrictions, it is less dramatic than last year. Taxpayers will vote on the budget this year. In 2020, the BOF was authorized by the Governor's Executive Orders to decide on the FY21 budget.

As in previous years, the Board of Selectmen will call for an in-person referendum. However, at press time, we are unsure whether the Budget Hearing and Town Meeting will be virtual or in-person as we are still waiting for direction from the Governor. Once we receive direction, we will publicize it on our website, and the Town of East Granby and East Granby Community Facebook pages. We will also put signs up throughout town.

Enclosed within these pages is information from the Boards of Finance (BOF), Selectmen (BOS), and Education (BOE) regarding the proposed budget and a description of the process that has led us to this point. This issue of "Let's Talk Turkey" (LTT) contains proposed spending levels and estimated revenues for the upcoming fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**BUDGET HEARING – APRIL 20, 2021 AT 7:00 PM:** While this edition of LTT contains detailed information, it's no substitute for attending the Public Budget Hearing scheduled for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 20th. If, as anticipated, the meeting is virtual, we will use the ZOOM platform or you can dial-in if you prefer. We will publicize the login information on the web, social media, and with signs.

**BUDGET INFORMATION:** The BOF projects that the Town's FY22 total operating budget which funds the BOS Budget, the BOE Budget, Debt Service, and Capital Reserve would increase by 3.26%. To fund the proposed FY22 spending, and based on currently projected State Grants, the BOF anticipates a potential tax rate increase of 0.7 mills, an increase of 2.11% from the current mill rate. For additional FY22 budget information you can click on the [www.eastgranbyct.org](http://www.eastgranbyct.org) home page under "Town News." You can also call the Selectmen's Office at (860) 413-3301 or for BOE information you may call (860) 653-6486 or check [www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us](http://www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us). To provide budget feedback directly to the BOF, you can e-mail them at: [21-22budgetcommenti@egtownhall.com](mailto:21-22budgetcommenti@egtownhall.com).

**CORONA RELIEF FUNDS (CRF) AND AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP):** The amount of \$35,438 in State CRF funding was awarded to General Government for use in the current fiscal year (FY21) for COVID related expenses. The recently passed federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) will provide \$507,487 to General Government and \$550,000 to the School District. Although we are waiting for instructions from the U.S. Treasury on how the funds can be used, we do know that "local governments cannot use funds for deposit into any pension fund. In addition, they cannot be used for directly or indirectly offsetting a tax cut." Funds are to be used to respond to the public health emergency, respond to workers performing essential work, or to make investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. The ARP funds cannot be used to "supplant" items in current operating budgets.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- The BOF will meet immediately after the Public Hearing on April 20th and decide on the budget which it will take to the Town Budget Meeting for taxpayer consideration.
- The Town Budget Meeting will be held on April 27th at 7:00 PM and we will communicate whether it will be "in-person" or virtual. The Town Meeting will adjourn without a vote to referendum.
- I anticipate that the BOS will call for a "machine ballot referendum" on Tuesday, May 11th at the Senior/Community Center. Referendum hours will be set at the Town Meeting.

See you on April 20th!  
Jim Hayden – First Selectman

## Newsletter Publication Schedule

<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Delivered to Homes</u>
May 3	May 15
August 2	August 14
September 7	September 18
November 8	November 20
Jan. 3, 2021	Jan. 15, 2021

submit articles via e-mail to  
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**EAST GRANBY'S PROPOSED BUDGET**  
**Covering the Period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022**

The Board of Finance anticipates that it will hold a virtual Public Hearing on the proposed town budget on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. This is an opportunity for you to learn about and comment on next year's spending plans and revenues. All residents and taxpayers are encouraged to attend.

**Projected Revenues**

The Board's projection of revenue for 2021-22 is:

<u>Revenue Item</u>	<u>Projection in 2020-21 Budget</u>	<u>Current 2020-21 Projection</u>	<u>2021-22 Projection</u>	<u>Percent Change*</u>
Property Taxes	\$20,122,510	\$20,122,000	\$20,962,855	4.18%
State Grants	2,739,912	2,740,000	2,602,477	(5.02)%
Other Town Revenue	314,000	315,000	329,277	4.53%
Use of Cash Balance	420,649	420,071	472,199	12.41%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$23,597,071</b>	<b>\$23,597,071</b>	<b>\$24,366,808</b>	<b>3.26%</b>

\*Based on a comparison of the Current 2020-21 Projection to the 2021-22 Projection.

The first column shows the estimates used in last year's budget presentation, while the Current 2020-21 Projection is based on year-to-date experience and expected future revenues. *Property Taxes* include the taxes we pay on our houses and cars, plus past-due taxes, interest, and liens. *State Grants* depend on State action each year. The Board of Finance is basing their revenue projections for next year on the Governor's proposed state budget for 2020-2021, which at this writing is the only comprehensive proposal available. *Other Town Revenue* includes fees for town services (e.g., building permits, charges for activities) and interest on invested funds. Estimates are based on tax calculations, past experience, and input from the revenue generating departments. *Use of Cash Balance* is the amount of the prior year end unallocated cash balance used to offset the need for additional revenue.

**Proposed Spending**

The proposed budget provides for total town spending of \$24,366,808 to be funded from general revenues including property taxes.

<u>Area</u>	<u>2020-21 Approved Budget</u>	<u>2020-21 Projected Spending</u>	<u>Proposed 2021-22 Budget</u>	<u>Percent Change**</u>
Education	\$17,284,700	\$17,284,700	17,890,000	3.50%
General Government	4,922,750	4,922,750	5,070,000	3.00%
Debt Service	789,621	789,621	806,808	2.18%
Capital Reserve Fund	600,000	600,000	600,000	.00%
Prior Year Charges Paid This Year	---	545,823	---	N/A
<b>Overall</b>	<b>\$23,597,071</b>	<b>\$24,688,717</b>	<b>\$24,366,808</b>	<b>3.26%</b>

\*\*Comparing the 2020-21 Approved Budget to the Proposed 2021-22 Budget.

The *Education* and *General Government* budgets are described in more detail below. *Debt Service* is the payment of interest and principal on the town's borrowing. The town borrows money to finance projects that are too big to be paid for from Operating or Capital funds. The current town debt includes the elementary school project (renovations at Allgrove School and renovation and expansion of Seymour School), the LED lighting projects for town and school buildings, and the first phase of borrowing for the "Roofs and Roads" infrastructure project approved by voters in February, 2019. *Capital Reserve Fund* is an amount set aside to cover major, non-recurring purchases and maintenance of the town's infrastructure; it is the town's savings account. Before any money is spent from the Capital Reserve Fund it must be approved at a town meeting called for that purpose. *Prior Year Charges Paid This Year* are charges budgeted in a previous fiscal year that are paid in the current year. Because they were included in the prior year's budget they do not directly affect the current year but are listed here since they impact the year end cash balance.

**Impact on Taxes**

In order to fund proposed 2021-22 spending—and based on currently projected State grants—the Board of Finance anticipates a tax rate of 33.9 mills. This is an increase of 0.7 mills (2.11%) from the current mill rate.

## THE BUDGET PROCESS

**The Board of Finance:** The Board of Finance is responsible for East Granby's short- and long-term financial health. As such, the Board must balance the diverse needs and interests of all citizens with the resources available to meet those needs. The process of determining a budget is lengthy and requires compromise among all served. At the completion of the Board's deliberations members arrive at a budget recommendation that they feel best serves the needs of our town. The proposed 2021-22 budget is the result of these deliberations and is presented to the town with the endorsement of the Board.

**Putting Together a Budget:** During the winter the Boards of Finance, Selectmen, and Education begin to formulate a budget for the next fiscal year. The budget is divided into several parts: the Selectmen oversee the General Government operating budget, which includes all town activities other than the schools, and the Board of Education is responsible for the school budget. The Board of Finance calculates the amount required to pay principal and interest on money the town has borrowed for major projects and allocates funds for capital purchases and infrastructure maintenance through the Capital Reserve Fund. The Board of Finance also estimates anticipated revenue for the year from town taxes and fees, the State, and other sources and provides direction to the Boards of Selectmen and Education for the operating budgets to be presented at the Public Hearing. The process culminates at the public hearing where the boards present their proposed spending plans and gather taxpayers' comments about the proposals. Subsequent to the hearing, the Board of Finance determines the budget to be presented for a town vote.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**The Grand List:** The Grand List is the sum of all taxable property in town and forms the basis of our largest revenue source: Property Taxes. Property is valued as of October 1 of each year with the total used for levying taxes as of the following July 1. The Grand List is made up of three types of property: Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property which, despite its name, refers to business equipment and machinery. Motor Vehicles and Personal Property values are updated every year based on State Department of Motor Vehicles records and on business submissions to the Assessor for Personal Property. Real Estate is revalued every five years with a full inspection-based revaluation done at ten year intervals (most recently, as of October 1, 2018) and market-based adjustments made at the intervening five-year mark.

The total net Grand List (after exemptions) increased slightly more than two percent (\$12,633,640, +2.08%) from the prior year to \$619.3 million. A slight decrease in Real Estate values (\$62,740, -0.01%) was offset by a small increase in Motor Vehicles (\$261,523, +.40%) and a large increase in Personal Property (\$12,434,857, +18.0%).

**Roofs and Roads Project:** On February 13, 2019 East Granby voters approved a program of infrastructure improvements at town and school buildings and a long-term program of road maintenance and repair. Borrowing to fund this program began with the issuance of bond anticipation notes (BANs), which carry interest-only payments, in fiscal year 2019-20 and current fiscal 2020-21. The Board of Finance anticipates that the town will issue bonds in July of the 2021-22 fiscal year, with interest-only due in the upcoming year. In subsequent fiscal years principal and interest will be due for the life of the bonds.

**State Action:** State action affects the town's budget directly through provision of grant funds for education, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for state-owned property in the community, real estate conveyance tax sharing, and other programs and indirectly through mandates that state law requires but does not fund.

In February, the Governor proposed a biennial State budget that covers the 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years. Because it's the only definitive set of state figures available now, the Board of Finance has used the grant amounts in the Governor's proposed biennial budget in the proposed town budget. East Granby receives funds through some but not all of the state grant programs. If the State subsequently cuts programs that we depend on, the impact may or may not be sizable, depending on whether or not the programs are ones we count on.

## NEXT STEPS

We encourage you to "attend" the Public Hearing. After the Hearing the Board of Finance will develop a final budget for presentation at a Town Meeting on April 27 and for a referendum vote at a date to be recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

# FY22 General Government Proposed Budget

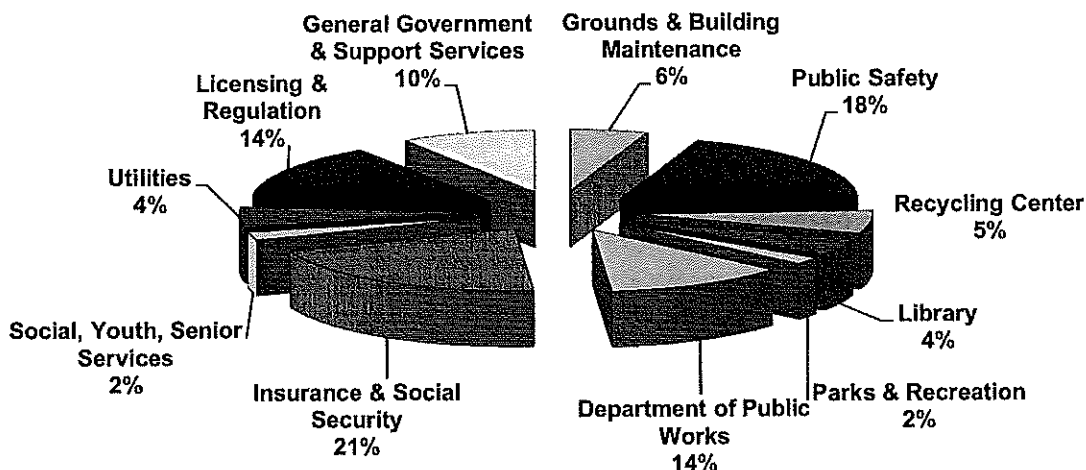
The General Government (GG) FY21 budget funds all town operations other than the schools. This includes operation of Town Hall Offices; the Police, Fire, Ambulance, Emergency Operations, and Highway Departments; Social, Youth, and Senior Services; the Recycling Center; Parks and Recreation; Building and Land Use; Building Maintenance; and the Library Association. The proposed July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (FY22) budget request for these services is \$5,070,000 or a 2.99% budget increase over the current year.

Please note that 46% of all town departments are at a 0% increase or less when compared to the current FY21 budget. The Town continues to work with surrounding communities for shared services which results in efficiencies that help us keep costs down. We are members of the Farmington Valley Health District and the Tobacco Valley Probate Court. We also share Youth Services programming/counseling and Fire Dispatch services with Granby. We share our Animal Control Officer with Suffield. Emergency Services are provided by the Granby Ambulance Association. Towards efficiency and savings, the GG budget has increased the shared services support it provides to the schools and to the Library. Please note that the town provides \$300,000 of "in-kind services" and support to the school district. FY22 payroll numbers are estimates as the Town Hall and Public Works contracts expire on June 30, 2021 and we are in negotiations. Thanks to East Granby taxpayers, the FY20 tax collection rate was 99.2% and FY21 is trending at 99%, both of which exceed the BOF budget.

The BOS has established a commission to conduct an in-depth analysis for the "Volunteer Fire Department of the Future" and to develop a plan to address the capital and labor costs associated with that. The new model may include paid staff during the day and/or opportunities with surrounding departments. Also, in FY22, the BOS is conducting an efficiency study of GG best practices, looking for additional cost saving opportunities. Our increased investment in Economic Development during FY21 has allowed us to outreach to small businesses, provide technical expertise for pandemic relief programs, and work with landowners and brokers to spur development opportunities. The Grand List, the total of taxable property in town, increased by 2%, one of the larger increases in the area. The increase was fueled by the investments that our commercial sector made to their plant and equipment. My thanks to our residents and to our employees for their patience as we work through the impact of COVID restrictions in a safe and effective manner.

For more information, please contact the Selectmen's Office at (860) 413-3301 or [www.eastgranbyct.org](http://www.eastgranbyct.org).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT FY22 BUDGET ASSET ALLOCATION



04 07 2021 FY22 Proposed Budget		Budget Summary			
		FY21	FY22	% Chg	\$ Change
0100	Selectmen Office	192,970	195,198	1.2%	2,228
0200	Probate	2,000	2,000	0.0%	0
0300	Registrars	49,525	48,425	-2.2%	(1,100)
0400	Board of Finance	1,700	1,700	0.0%	0
0500	Audit	23,790	24,300	2.1%	510
0600	Assessor	145,983	144,029	-1.3%	(1,954)
0700	Board of Assessment Appeals	150	150	0.0%	(150)
0800	Tax Collector	104,551	107,395	2.7%	2,844
0900	Treasurer	24,210	24,629	1.7%	419
1000	Town Counsel	18,000	15,000	-16.7%	(3,000)
1100	Town Clerk	117,910	122,843	4.2%	4,933
1200	Planning & Zoning Commission	108,584	102,006	-6.1%	(6,578)
1300	Data Services	113,112	123,906	9.5%	10,794
1400	Public Buildings	196,251	200,600	2.2%	4,349
1500	Land Use/Building	132,408	134,592	1.6%	2,184
1600	Engineering	16,000	16,000	0.0%	0
1700	Fire Department	169,648	193,448	14.0%	23,800
1800	Police Department	647,134	653,979	1.1%	6,845
2000	Fire Marshal & Emergency Services	69,357	70,976	2.3%	1,619
2100	Public Works Department	724,800	760,830	5.0%	36,030
2210	Visiting Nurse	2,500	2,500	0.0%	0
2240	Health District	33,456	36,029	7.7%	2,573
2300	Social Services	23,480	23,940	2.0%	460
2400	Library	213,800	213,800	0.0%	0
2500	Parks & Recreation Commission	98,715	99,825	1.1%	1,110
2550	Field Maintenance	26,450	15,000	-43.3%	(11,450)
2700	Insurance	725,000	777,344	7.2%	52,344
2800	Surety Bonds	0	0	0.0%	0
2900	Economic Development	49,000	49,000	0.0%	0
3000	Animal Control	11,000	11,000	0.0%	0
3100	Social Security/Medicare	167,160	170,510	2.0%	3,350
3300	Street Lighting	37,000	38,000	2.7%	1,000
3400	RCC	234,231	252,089	7.6%	17,858
3500	Memberships	21,661	21,604	-0.3%	(57)
3700	Senior Services	36,290	36,250	-0.1%	(40)
3750	Mini Bus	27,705	22,625	-18.3%	(5,080)
3800	Youth Services Commission	18,050	18,000	-0.3%	(50)
3900	Utilities	166,410	166,410	0.0%	0
4000	Ambulance	62,659	62,868	0.3%	209
4100	Contingency	54,000	54,000	0.0%	0
4200	Facilities Maintenance Mgt	56,100	57,200	2.0%	1,100
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>		<b>4,922,750</b>	<b>5,070,000</b>	<b>2.990%</b>	<b>147,250</b>

**This Budget as Proposed** maintains current service levels and increases support for Fire Department, Public Works & Buildings, Data Services, Insurance, Trash Disposal, and reduces expenditures in nine departments.

**Overall Points of Interest:** The school/town roof portion of the bonding project is complete. The air conditioning installation project at Allgrove will be completed by August 1st. The road maintenance part of the project will continue through 2025 with a total of 22 miles of road being paved. To date, the Town has paid for the project with "interest only" Bond Anticipation Notes (BANS) and will take out a 20-year bond in July 2021. We expect three retirements in the upcoming fiscal year and are working on succession management. Trash disposal rates have increased by 37% in the past three years and are problematic. Town health insurance costs are increasing due to projected open enrollment costs. This budget adds 13 hours of administrative support to the Fire Department, a 24-hour position to DPW, and eliminates a summer seasonal DPW position.

**Areas of Concern:** COVID protocols have created the need to add 20-hours to Buildings, but this budget does not fund the 20-hours. We anticipate that the BOS will use American Rescue Plan funds for that purpose. The "Volunteer Fire Department of the Future" has been discussed on the previous page. Our Accounting software needs to be updated and we have it on our 5-year Capital Plan. As the BOE and BOS do more shared services, the BOF may want to add a third category to Capital for town projects on school property and buildings.

**Department Commentary on Proposed Budget:** identifying significant +/- department and line items.

1. Selectmen Office (line 0100) – increase of \$2228 or +1.2% driven by training needed for replacement of retiring accounting employee. This was partially offset by not funding the grant writer position.
2. Assessor (line 0600) – decrease of \$1954 or -1.3% by eliminating \$5,000 for personal property audit. Due to COVID and the inability to do the audit this year, we will use FY21 funding for this purpose.
3. Town Counsel (line 1000) – decrease of \$3,000 or -16% based on a 3-year trend. Potential risk here.
4. Town Clerk (line 1100) – increase of \$4,933 or +4.2% to meet contractual obligations for anticipated raises. Also included is the "step" increase that the assistant clerk receives when she becomes certified.
5. Planning and Zoning (line 1200) – decrease of \$6,578 or -6.1% based on replacement of long-time building official.
6. Data Services (line 1300) – increase of \$10,794 or +9.5% primarily driven by a new annual charge of \$8,500 for monthly software updates and maintenance for our Windows 365 e-mail system.
7. Fire Department (line 1700) – increase of \$23,800 or +14.0% due to adding 13 hours for administrative support and increasing both the training budget & mileage reimbursement due to robust membership gains. Dispatching duties will be moved to Tolland County Fire improving our technology and firefighter safety on the fire scene. There will also be a \$3,000 cost savings.
8. Public Works (line 2100) – increase of \$36,030 or +5%. Driven by snow costs, anticipated contractual obligations, and by adding a 24-hour permanent position while eliminating the seasonal position.
9. Health District (line 2240) – increase of \$2,573 or +7.7% per capita increase. The increase addresses service opportunities that FVHD highlighted for year three of their five-year plan and COVID costs.
10. Recreation Field Maintenance (line 2550) – decrease of \$11,450 or -43.3% due to less use on the scholastic fields due to COVID and "pre-loading" fertilizer this spring with the FY21 budget.
11. Insurance (line 2700) – increase of \$52,344 or +7.2%. P&C, LTD, Life Insurance are projected to increase by 5%. Health insurance, while the rates are not increasing, significantly rises due to open enrollment potentially adding three employees to the plan. The RCC retirement who did not take coverage was replaced with someone who took the insurance.
12. Animal Control (line 3000) – decrease of 57% over FY20 and 0% when compared to FY21 by using 50% of the old "Dog Fund" balance in FY21 and in FY22 to clean up the account to \$0. Costs in FY23 will go back to \$26,000 annually or +\$15,000 out of the operating budget.
13. RCC (line 3400) – increase of \$17,858 or +7.6% due to increased tipping fees charged by MIRA. MIRA charges the "net cost of operation" and their costs have increased significantly due to an antiquated and increasingly unreliable plant. The new tipping fee will increase \$14 per ton to \$104.
14. Minibus (line 3750) – decrease of \$5080 or -18.3% by projecting labor at FY20 levels.
15. Youth Services (line 3800) – while flat to FY21, please note that Granby will still provide counseling services, but East Granby will take over programming.

# EAST GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOL Budget Message

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."  
—Benjamin Franklin

On Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at its regular meeting, the East Granby Board of Finance (BOF) directed the East Granby Board of Education to prepare and present a 3.5% budget (increase of \$605,300) at the Public Hearing scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.















We appreciate and expend with great care the resources the town allocates to enable us to provide high quality instruction and experiences for the student population. We are extremely proud of the sustained excellence of the school system that is the pride of the Town of East Granby. Each year we endeavor to accelerate our momentum to institutionalize 21st century authentic educational experiences that will be attractive to aspiring learners and new residents. We continue to expand partnerships with the business community and higher education to ensure that our students graduate from the East Granby Public Schools with meaningful credentials earned while participating in our educational programs. In the East Granby Public Schools, educators work diligently to implement best practices to engage students in rigorous learning experiences while capitalizing on opportunities to realize efficiencies in our operations. Our continuing efforts include the following:

- Re-negotiating new contracts with vendors, taking advantage of collaborative opportunities for professional development, special education services, and cooperative purchasing;
- Pursuit of additional grant funding where eligible;
- Participation in regional arrangements with the Education Services Collaborative, Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center, and Capital Region Education Council to take advantage of group purchasing for services and resources;
- Shared transportation for students participating in Vo-Ag and Vo-Technical programs;
- Shared Services Committee with the Town of East Granby;
- Partnerships with higher education to support the academic program and create educational experiences for students;
- Combined purchasing with the town and other districts.

**East Granby Public Schools Accolades.** Below are some recent accolades to highlight:

- 🏆 2020 Connecticut Scholars Award Semifinalist
- 🏆 Numerous AP Scholars
- 🏆 2020 National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing
- 🏆 CT Music Educators Association All State Choir Members
- 🏆 EGHS Best High School Silver Badge, U.S. News & World Report for the last five years
- 🏆 State winner for the fire prevention poster contest
- 🏆 Seymour School of Distinction for 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019
- 🏆 DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution)
  - Good Citizen Award recipient
  - first place in the 7th Grade category for the Abigail Phelps Chapter; National Invite
  - first place in the 8th Grade category for the Abigail Phelps Chapter
- 🏆 2021 University of Connecticut Writing Contest Winners
  - Platinum Award and Published writer in the 2021 Connecticut Student Writers Magazine
  - Several Silver Award winners and Honorable Mentions
- 🏆 Invention Convention 2020 student invited to participate in the U.S. Nationals
- 🏆 13 students finished in 3rd place in the Kids Lit Quiz 2020
- 🏆 Bradley Airport Art Exhibit

**Giving Back to the Community.** EGPS students live the value of good citizenship and have given back to the community in a variety of ways including:

-  Labors of Love - provide winter clothing for those in need
-  Food Drives to support the Friend to Friend Food Pantry
-  Storm/Hurricane Relief Fundraiser
-  PJ for A Cause - Benefiting CCMC
-  Hoops for Heart
-  Quest for a Cure to support Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
-  Annual Ski-a-thon for Make-A-Wish Foundation
-  Gifts of Love
-  Annual Blood Drive for The Red Cross
-  Land Trust Interns
-  Annual Student Council Coat Drive and Sock Drive - Springfield Rescue Mission
-  Senior Citizen Luncheon
-  Toys for Tots
-  Pennies for Patients

A 3.5 % budget diminishes several funding risks. The Board of Education will continue to keep a close eye on evolving special education and student needs, mid-year health benefit changes, unexpected building maintenance and repair, and the impact of COVID-19. We are thankful for the support of the community and the trust in our school district to make responsible financial decisions while providing an excellent education to our students.

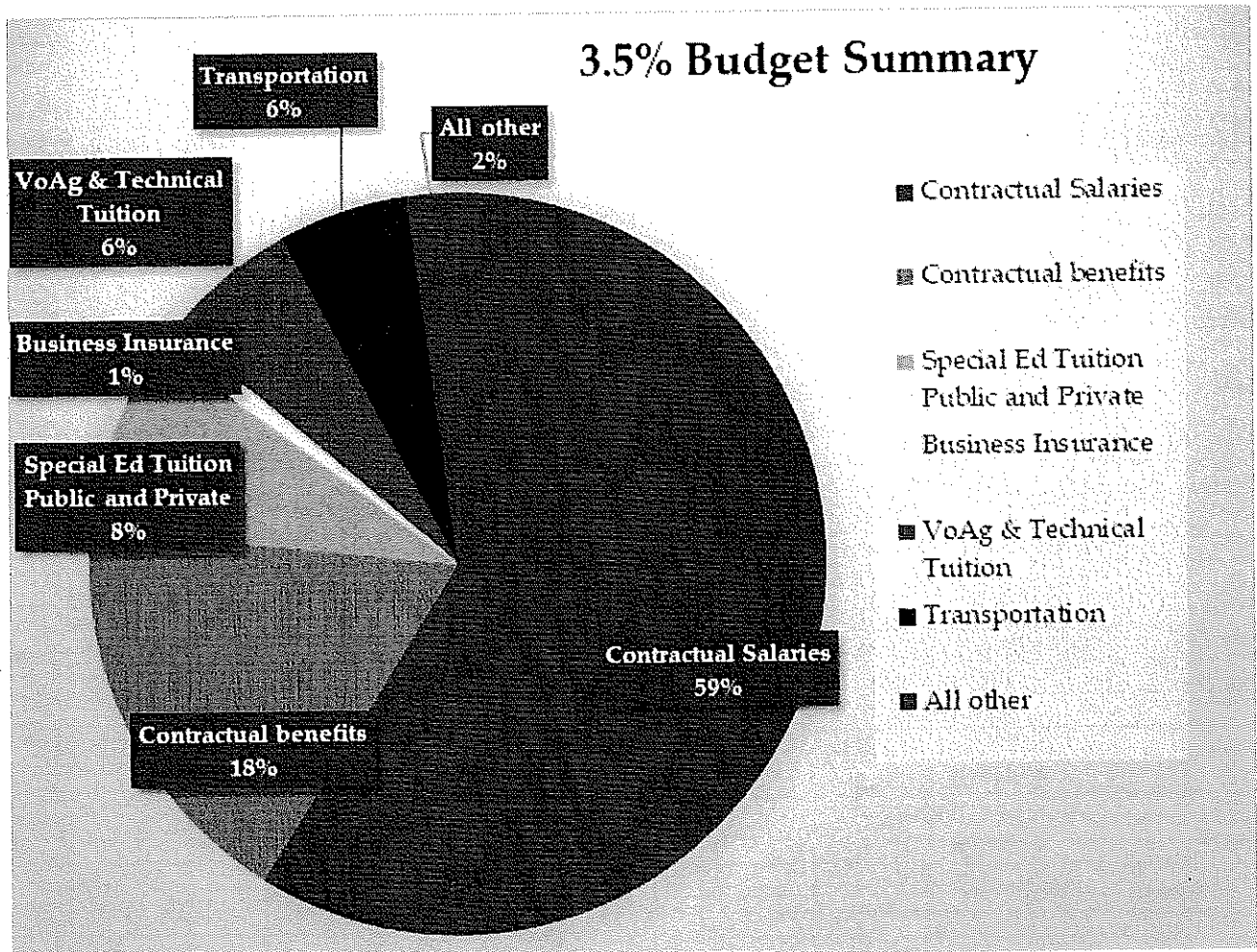
We invite you to join the conversation to secure an appropriate level of funding so the East Granby Public Schools can continue to provide learning experiences of superior quality. The high performing East Granby Public Schools are the cornerstone of East Granby.

**The Board of Education will present a Board of Finance directed budget of 3.5% for 2021-22 at the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM on April 20th. Public Comments may be sent to [21-22budgetcomment@egtownhall.com](mailto:21-22budgetcomment@egtownhall.com).** The Board of Selectmen will set the date and time for the referendum at the Town Meeting scheduled for April 27th at 7:00 PM. The Board of Education has no opportunity to advocate for the budget after the referendum date is set. Therefore, it is imperative that you engage in the process well before that date. Official Board of Education budget documents are posted on the district website at [www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us](http://www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us). Thank you for supporting our students and educational programs.



## 2021 – 2022 BUDGET DRIVERS

- ▶ Contractual salary increase for certified staff including stipends
- ▶ Contractual salary increase for non-certified staff
- ▶ Projected increase health care premiums
- ▶ Private Tuition increase related to Student Support Services
- ▶ Pupil Transportation contractual increase



## 2021-2022 Board of Finance Directed 3.5% Budget

3.50%	Description	2021 Budget	3.5% budget request	Inc (Dec) \$	% Change
111	CERTIFIED PERSONNEL	\$8,255,528.62	\$8,466,010.00	\$210,481.38	2.55%
112	NONCERTIFIED PERSONNEL	\$1,572,079.34	\$1,696,505.19	\$124,425.85	7.91%
121	CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
125	CONTRACTED SUBSTITUTES	\$35,095.23	\$40,000.00	\$4,904.77	13.98%
131	OTHER SALARIES	\$211,115.10	\$216,105.60	\$4,990.50	2.36%
210	GROUP HEALTH LIFE INSURANCE	\$2,610,108.00	\$2,710,108.00	\$100,000.00	3.83%
220	SOCIAL SECURITY	\$122,113.00	\$130,000.00	\$7,887.00	6.46%
221	MEDICARE	\$154,006.00	\$155,000.00	\$994.00	0.65%
230	EMPLOYER PENSION	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
250	UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS	\$27,900.00	\$27,900.00	\$0.00	0.00%
260	WORKERS' COMPENSATION	\$80,385.00	\$81,000.00	\$615.00	0.77%
320	PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT	\$83,000.00	\$80,000.00	(\$3,000.00)	-3.61%
322	ASSESSMENT SERVICES	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	0.00%
330	OTHER PROF & TECH SERVICES	\$470,000.00	\$445,416.00	(\$24,584.00)	-5.23%
340	DATA PROCESSING	\$31,109.00	\$31,109.00	\$0.00	0.00%
411	WATER / SEWAGE	\$29,552.00	\$29,839.80	\$287.80	0.97%
421	RUBBISH REMOVAL	\$13,900.00	\$13,900.00	\$0.00	0.00%
430	CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE SERVICES	\$177,942.00	\$190,109.50	\$12,167.50	6.84%
435	REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS	\$86,000.00	\$86,600.00	\$600.00	0.70%
500	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$200.00	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	-100.00%
510	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$996,636.00	\$1,024,589.00	\$27,953.00	2.80%
520	PROPERTY INSURANCE	\$38,103.00	\$40,000.00	\$1,897.00	4.98%
521	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$29,914.00	\$31,274.75	\$1,360.75	4.55%
523	ERRORS & OMISSIONS INSURANCE	\$15,800.00	\$16,590.00	\$790.00	5.00%
530	TELEPHONE	\$39,485.00	\$40,365.00	\$880.00	2.23%
531	POSTAGE	\$8,675.00	\$8,774.00	\$99.00	1.14%
540	ADVERTISEMENT	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
550	JOB PRINTING & BINDING	\$5,650.00	\$5,350.00	(\$300.00)	-5.31%
561	PUBLIC SCHOOL TUITION	\$260,000.00	\$230,077.00	(\$29,923.00)	-11.51%
563	PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION	\$690,000.00	\$843,840.00	\$153,840.00	22.30%
580	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	\$10,502.40	\$10,452.20	(\$50.20)	-0.48%
582	FIELD TRIPS	\$3,070.00	\$2,620.00	(\$450.00)	-14.66%
610	SUPPLIES	\$68,481.01	\$99,521.87	\$31,040.86	45.33%
612	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	\$31,400.00	\$31,400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
621	NATURAL GAS	\$25,500.00	\$26,000.00	\$500.00	1.96%
622	ELECTRICITY	\$483,107.00	\$450,934.87	(\$32,172.13)	-6.66%
623	PROPANE GAS	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
624	HEATING SUPPLIES OIL	\$119,250.00	\$108,351.24	(\$10,898.76)	-9.14%
640	BOOKS/TEXTBOOKS/WORKBOOKS	\$80,103.92	\$75,281.00	(\$4,822.92)	-6.02%
643	LICENSES/SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$119,260.53	\$134,703.75	\$15,443.22	12.95%
730	EQUIPMENT	\$32,268.85	\$41,420.23	\$9,151.38	28.36%
810	MEMBERSHIPS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$39,910.00	\$41,302.00	\$1,392.00	3.49%
811	LEGAL FEES	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	Total	\$17,284,700.00	\$17,890,000.00	\$605,300.00	3.50%

## **2021-2022 Board of Finance Directed 3.5% Budget**

The 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget is \$17,284,700. The Board of Finance gave the Board of Education a directive of 3.5% or an additional \$605,300.

### **THE 3.5% BUDGET INCLUDES:**

- ▶ Continuation of programming at all schools
- ▶ Maintaining EGPS class size guidelines
- ▶ Business Office operation enhancements
- ▶ One union contract negotiation
- ▶ Compliance with contractual obligations of the Administrative, Certified, and Non-Certified unions
- ▶ Funding of Chromebook Refresh out of operating budget rather than Capital funds
- ▶ A 3% Increase for Group Health/Dental
- ▶ Budgeted increase at 5% for worker's compensation
- ▶ Budget increase at 5% for Property, Liability and Errors / Omissions Insurance
- ▶ Adjustments for utilities and plant maintenance such as Water, Rubbish Removal, Contracted Maintenance, Telephones and Internet, Electricity and Plant Equipment
- ▶ 10 % of staff being charged to Choice, IDEA and Title I Grants

**Thank you to the community for your continued support!**



## HOMEOWNERS TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY & TOTALLY DISABLED

The State of Connecticut and the Town of East Granby have programs which provide tax relief for elderly and totally disabled homeowners on their real estate taxes.

The requirements are:

- Elderly applicants must be 65 years of age or older as of December 31, 2020.
- Totally disabled applicants do not have an age requirement.
- All applicants must own and be a permanent resident of a dwelling in East Granby.

The filing period is February 1 through May 15, 2021.

If you have any questions or would like to make a confidential appointment, please call Mary Ellen Brown at the Assessor's Office at (860) 653-2852.

## VETERANS TAX EXEMPTIONS

There are tax exemptions possible on Real Estate or Motor Vehicles for honorably discharged veterans of all ages and branches of service. Their time of service needs to include a specific period of war or conflict, regardless of whether they served in combat or not. Discharge papers need to be filed in the Town Hall.

Additionally, a VA disability rating of 10% or more warrants a higher exemption. The rating document from the VA also needs to be filed.

There is also a Motor Vehicle exemption for persons in active service in all branches.

No veteran or person in active service should assume that he/she is not eligible. Call the Assessor's Office at (860) 653-2852 to learn more.

### Guidelines for Submitting Articles

Please note that the deadline submission time is 9:00 AM on Monday. All articles must be submitted in Word format and sent via e-mail to [newsletter@egtownhall.com](mailto:newsletter@egtownhall.com). Deadlines are strictly enforced to ensure timely preparation of the publication. Articles should pertain to an East Granby organization, agency, or business (non-advertisement) and be of general interest to the public. With the exception of Town Commissions and Boards, we will not accept submissions that are more than one page in size including pictures, objects, and text. At the discretion of the Editor, articles and graphics may be edited. The name of the submitter and a daytime phone number must accompany each article.

East Granby Town Hall  
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